

Application No. 10/647,435  
Attorney Docket No. P63215US2

**Remarks/Arguments:**

Claims 14-29, presented hereby, are pending.

Claims 1-13 are cancelled hereby, without prejudice or disclaimer.

Present claims 14-29 contain the subject matter of claims 66-89 of record in parent application no. 09/206,161, which claims were under final rejection.

***Request for Interview Before First Action on the Merits***

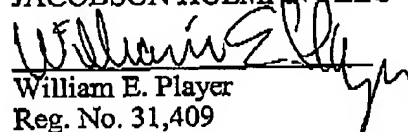
The subject application is a Rule 53(b) continuation of application no. 09/206,161. An interview with the examiner is, therefore, requested before first action on the merits, in accordance with MPEP 713.02 ("A request for an interview prior to the first Office Action is ordinarily granted in *continuing* or substitute applications" [*emphasis added*])).

In conjunction with the foregoing, applicants ask the examiner to kindly telephone their undersigned representative to arrange an interview at a mutually convenient date and time, i.e., before first action on the merits of the subject continuing application.

Respectfully submitted,

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